

Resident's Meetings Session Guide

November 2021

This document is intended to support the 'Resident's Workbook' produced by students at the University of Sheffield in November 2021. It will give general advice for organising a series of online sessions for the prospective future residents of Morrell House, as well as possible session agendas and explanations of the proposed activities. There is space for notes to be made during or after each session to record key information or takeaways.

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A series of Resident's Sessions

Resident's sessions are an important way to allow residents to meet, be involved in the design process and make key decisions on how they will organise as a community. Running a series of regular sessions will allow OpHouse to **discover the needs and desires of the future residents**, as well as provide relevant information across a range of topics. These sessions can also be used to **determine common interests and compatibility** of individual members within the group.

Organising a Resident Session

Meeting Set Up

Meeting objectives - Before each meeting **establish what the objective of the meeting is**. Is the purpose to give the resident's information? Is it to find out the resident's opinions? Cater the session agenda and materials to ensure you meet this objective (e.g. creating an informative presentation, generating questions to ask the resident's opinions, preparing activities).

Online meeting platform - Create a meeting link for the session and email it to residents ahead of time. Make sure you are comfortable using features such as screen share and breakout rooms. If possible set up breakout rooms in advance.

Collaborative note taking - We advise using a website like **Miro or Google Jamboard** to record the conversations from each meeting. A section can be set up for each breakout group for facilitators to write notes, as well as a section to record the group discussion.

Roles

Host / Presentor - The host's role is to manage the meeting, introducing and explaining each section and keeping to time.

Facilitators - A facilitator's role is to keep the conversation on track in the breakout room, make notes and give an overview of the comments made in the group discussion. Ideally you should have **one facilitator for every 3-4 people** in the meeting, to keep breakout groups small enough to hear everyone's voice.

Technical set up - It is advised to make sure that there is someone available in the meeting who understands the online platform used to provide technical support and to set up features like the breakout rooms. Ideally this is someone other than the host, but could be one of the facilitators.

Session 1 - Introduction

The first resident's meeting was hosted online by students from the University of Sheffield on the 27th October 2021.

Session Objectives:

- To introduce the residents to each other
- Understand individual living situations and visions for the future of Morrell House.

Reflection:

Overall, the feedback gathered from the residents were positive, and aligned with comments made by the local community in York Design Week. Key takeaways were that residents want to feel like they are **part of a community**, but retain **a sense of autonomy** over their individual living situations. They would like to see **education, co-working and community spaces** for people of all ages.

The residents have a number of skills they can share within the group - covering cooking, gardening, construction, graphic design and technological skills. In the future it could be useful to create **individual profiles** to document who has particular skills.

Some residents were unaware that the session would include interactive elements, and needed time to think about the questions asked before answering. It is hoped that the Resident's Workbook will give residents an opportunity to **prepare their thoughts before meeting**.

The diagram on the next page records the resident's responses to the questions asked in the breakout rooms during the session.

To see it become successful and offer a resource for the exiting community.

Aim to live as a community, with a sense of belonging to get to know neighbours and surrounding people.

Education for Social Change Group.

Currently not much in the way of community for people without children, so a place to provide community activities for all ages.

A space to feel 'our own' with a sense of autonomy.

To provide co-working spaces

A place for community facilities and parking spaces.

Shared spaces and values between residents, as well as affordability.

Casual activities to do with other residents for example yoga and movie nights.

A place that provides quality education for the community, as well as mental health support.

What are your aspirations for what the Morrell House resident community could provide for you?

What can you share or offer to the resident community?

Teaching and using each other's skills, and sharing them with others in the community.

Interest in mindfulness and meditation.

Cooking and gardening skills for allotments. Would be nice to grow veg together.

Technology information and teaching as well as programming.

Growing different plants together, and learning and sharing knowledge. Multiple plants can support each other.

Graphic Design Experience can be shared and learnt amongst each other.

Construction industry skills that can be used when self-building.

Experience of self-build within the group can be utilized and taught, with some residents keen to self-build and learn.

Small business, website design and start up experience.

Cooking for others and first aid.

Experience dealing with the council and facilitating the purchase of the land.



